

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2137
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
MENU UNDER MID DAY MEAL SCHEME
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students availing the benefits of Mid-day Meal Scheme in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has convened a meeting recently with State School Secretaries and Special Project Directors regarding the change of menu in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and other related issues;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to improve the quality of food served through mid-day meal scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

- (a): 11.19 Crore students availed Mid-Day Meal during the year 2008-09 in the country.State-wise details are given in the Annexure.
- (b) & (c):A conference of State/UT Education Secretaries was held on 29th July 2009 to 1st August 2009 to review the implementation of various schemes of the Department of School Education and Literacy.Menu was not discussed in the meeting because it is decided locally on the basis of availability of raw materials and food habit.
- (d): Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome,cooked mid day meal in every eligible school,Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres lies with the State Government/UT administration,the Central Government, through National, Regional and State level review meetings had been continuously urging the State/UT Governments to:

ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment

food items are stored in dry and safe places

adequate drinking water is made available

cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

The 42 monitoring institutions have been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in States/UTs.The State Government/UT Administration is also required to send Quarterly Progress Reports(QPRs) to the Central Government.The Central Government analyzes the reports of monitoring institution as well as QPRs and asks States/UTs to take remedial measures, if required,to avoid recurrence of such deficiency in future.States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal.

The following modifications made in the MDMS will also help to improve the quality of the food:

- (i) Revision of food norm for upper primary.
- (ii) Revision of cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) from Rs.1.68 to Rs. 2.50 for primary and Rs. 2.20 to Rs. 3.75 for upper primary children with effect from 1.12.2009.
- (iii) A separate provision for engagement of cook-cum- helper on honorarium basis @Rs. 1000 per month to each cook- cum-helper.
- (iv) Revision of cost of construction of Kitchen-cum-Store.
- (v) Transportation assistance to 11 Special Category States at Public Distribution System (PDS) rate prevalent in these States.